

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 XMB-07 L-03 SCI-06 COME-00 TRSE-00

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 AID-20 OMB-01 CIEP-02

EB-11 IGA-02 INT-08 AGR-20 IO-14 DRC-01 /125 W

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R 241210Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY LOME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7846

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, TGEN, TO

SUBJ: GEOSCIENCE PROJECT IN TOGO

REF: STATE 128167

1. MISSION SURPRISED TO LEARN OF EXIM FINANCING OF GEOSCIENCE FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR NATURAL RESOURCES RESEARCH CENTER. REPRESENTATIVES FROM GEOSCIENCE MET WITH FORMER AMBASSADOR DICKINSON, ECONOFF AND AIDOFF TO DISCUSS PROJECT IN FEBRUARY, BUT DID NOT MENTION POSSIBLE APPLICATION FOR EXIM FINANCING. AMBASSADOR DID MENTION AID AS POSSIBLE PARTICIPANT IN PROJECT. GOT HAS MADE NO RPT NO FORMAL REQUEST THROUGH EMBASSY FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.

2. AFTER REVIEW OF PROJECT PROPOSAL LEFT BY GEOSCIENCE REPS, EMBASSY BELIEVES DOLS 2.5 MILLION PRICE TAG FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF CENTER PROPORTIONATELY HIGH FOR COUNTRY TOGO'S SIZE. MOREOVER, IN SPITE OF GEO'S ELABORATE PROGRAMMING OF RESEARCH PROJECT, NO ATTENTION IS GIVEN TO AVAILABILITY OR TRAINING OF COUNTERPARTS. USAID AND GERMANS, AT LEAST, HAVE ALREADY EXPERIENCED COUNTERPART PROBLEM. THERE IS QUESTION, TOO, WHETHER GEOSCIENCE PERSONNEL

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QUALIFIED IN USE OF FRENCH LANGUAGE. PROPOSAL ALSO SUGGESTS POSSIBLE REGIONALIZATION OF CENTER STAFF

AND FACILITIES ONCE OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES ARE UNDERWAY. MISSION WOULD PREFER TO SEE REGIONAL APPROACH INCORPORATED IN SCHEME AT OUTSET OF PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION RATHER THAN BE ATTEMPTED AFTERWARDS. (FYI UNDP HAS MADE EFFORTS TO REGIONALIZE ITS EXISTING HOUSING CONSTRUCTION CENTER, ORIGINALLY DESIGNED TO SERVE ONLY TOGO; RESULTS THUS FAR HAVE BEEN MEAGER.)

3. GEOSCIENCE REPORT DESCRIBES TYPICAL PRIORITY PROJECTS WHICH COULD BE UNDERTAKEN BY PROPOSED CENTER--MINERALS AND PETROLEUM RESOURCES INVENTORIES, GROUND WATER INVESTIGATIONS, AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY INVENTORIES. WITH EXCEPTION OF PETROLEUM STUDIES, TARGET PROJECTS ARE SIMILAR TO THOSE ALREADY BEING CONDUCTED WITHIN UNDP COUNTRY PROGRAM.

4. ACTING UN RESREP RECENTLY TOLD EMBOFF GOT HAD NOT INFORMED UNDP RE GEOSCIENCE PROJECT. HE SAID IN ANY EVENT UNDP COULD NOT FINANCE IMPLEMENTATION DURING CURRENT COUNTRY PROGRAM, ALTHOUGH IT IS ALWAYS WILLING TO RECEIVE REQUESTS FOR CONSIDERATION FOR NEXT PROGRAM.

5. CRITICAL UNKNOWN IN THIS SCHEME, AS EMBASSY PERCEIVES IT, IS WHETHER GEO'S PROPOSED RESEARCH WILL IDENTIFY COMMERCIALY FEASIBLE AND ATTRACTIVE INVESTMENT POSSIBILITIES. CAN SUCH AN ORGANIZATION AS GEO DO THE JOB THAT AN INTERESTED, EXPERIENCED INVESTOR FIRM COULD NOT DO BETTER?

6. MISSION RECOMMENDS AGAINST ANY AID INVOLVEMENT THIS PROJECT.
RAWLS

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